

REMARKS

Claims 81-143 were pending and under consideration in the application. Claims 126-143 have been cancelled without prejudice as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 84, 87-100, 103-123, and 125 have been withdrawn as being drawn to non-elected inventions and/or species.

The Examiner has asserted that Applicants' amendment filed on December 28, 2004 was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action, because claims directed non-elected species were not indicated as "withdrawn". Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action dated December 2, 2004 required Applicants to indicate as withdrawn the non-elected *claims*, rather than the non-elected *species*. Applicants therefore submit that Applicants' response was a bona fide attempt at a reply to the Office Action.

However, in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have indicated as withdrawn the claims directed to the non-elected species. Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone conference, as well as the facsimile dated April 7, 2005 indicating which claims should be withdrawn. Applicants submit that the claims under consideration which read on the elected invention and species are those listed on this facsimile, and that the current amendment is in compliance with all U.S. Patent and Trademark rules. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the current amendment and consider the pending claims.

Applicants submit that upon the allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim, as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.141.

Applicants further submit that if the product claims are found allowable, the withdrawn process claims that depend from or otherwise include all of the limitations of the allowable

product claims will be rejoined and entered as a matter of right in accordance with the provisions of MPEP § 821.04.

It is believed the application in condition for immediate allowance, which action is earnestly solicited. If a telephone conversation with Applicants' agent would expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

Although it is not believed that any additional fees are needed to consider this submission, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge our deposit account no. 04-1105 should any fees, including any extension fees, be deemed necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

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